

I am an Amateur Radio Opreator and my call is KB1DIG. Kiernan K. Holliday makes a good point regarding "remove all requirements for knowledge of Morse code" from the Amateur Service rules. My Wife, Kim KB1GTR and I did volunteer for the NYC/WTC relief effort with SATERN and worked with the Salvation Army. Emergency Communications was focused entirely on Voice with 2-Meters in this operation. I drove 300 miles in 11 days in Lower-Manhattan. During this time I was in constant mobile contact with the base of operations located on 14th Street between 6th & 7th Ave. I could also contact my Wife on her hand-held-radio as she served food to many of the workers at a food canteen located at the very foot of the former World Trade Centers. Emergency Communications has changed. The Amateur Service exists for it's application toward Emergancy use someday. The actual use of Morse Code in modern times, during an Emergancy, seems very unlikely. Keeping the Code requirment has proven to be counterproductive. Or, it has for me. I have been trying to learn the Code for 5 years now. I just don't have the knack for it. This can be discouraging, but I have found other ways to enjoy this hobby. It was a good feeling for my Wife and I to be able to put some of our skills to good use. We just hope others stay in the hobby that can not learn code...